Forklift Propane to CNG Conversion:

One towmotor (forklift) will be used for a compressed natural gas (CNG)* emissions study. The goal is to convert several towmotors (forklifts) from propane to CNG to improve indoor emissions for workers. Once conversion of a test towmotor is done in the next few months, our Industrial Hygiene staff will monitor air quality. They will measure the reduction in carbon monoxide, especially during winter when the outside doors remain closed, trapping more of the exhaust fumes.



Forklift in Bldg 137. Propane tank is on the back, behind the red triangle.

* What is compressed natural gas?

Natural gas is found in underground formations, including shale, sandstone beds, coal seams, and deep salt water aquifers (underground ponds of water). CNG is natural gas stored at very high pressures to increase its energy density. It's odorless, colorless, and tasteless. Although the CNG we use is not renewable, by using CNG instead of gasoline, emissions are potentially reduced 90-97% for carbon monoxide, 25% for carbon dioxide, and 35-60% for nitrogen oxides. Fewer toxic and carcinogenic pollutants are emitted, and almost no particulate matter is produced.